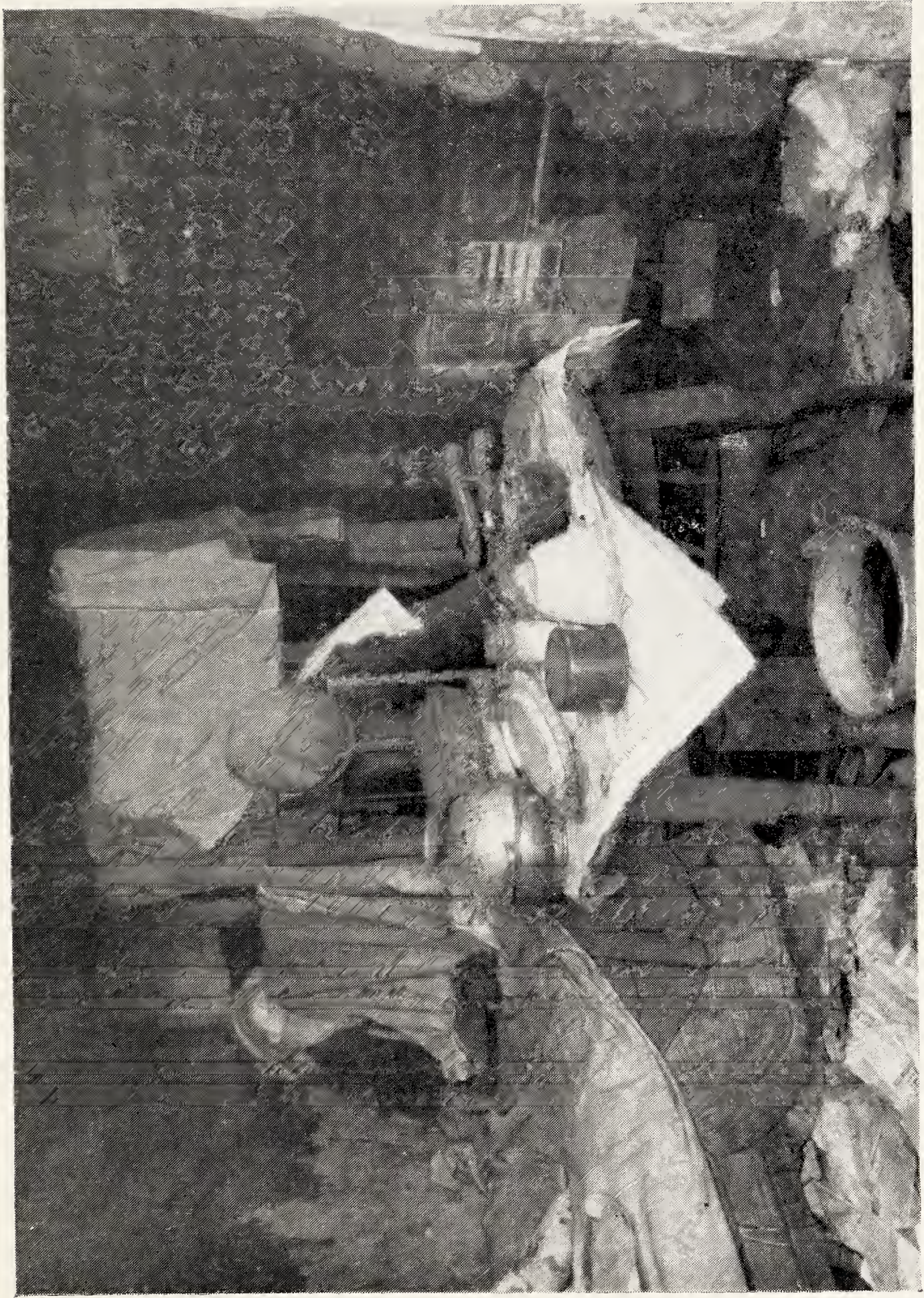


Library

East Elloe
Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Chief Public Health Inspector
for the
Year 1958



A country slum. The home of a Pensioner until 1958 when it was demolished by the Council and the tenant re-housed.



The interior of a Pensioner's Bungalow at Arthur's Avenue, Holbeach. 18 such Bungalows were built by the Council during 1958.

East Elloe Rural District Council

Chairman of the Council : Councillor A. White, J.P.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor H. L. Neaverson.

Clerk : Mr. J. C. Pywell.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : Councillor H. L. Neaverson.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor S. Garner.

Members :

Councillor W. H. Baines.	Councillor A. G. Howlett.
„ J. G. Baker.	„ Mrs. A. H. S. Hunter.
„ R. G. Barwell.	„ C. N. Mackman.
„ F. Baxter.	„ H. Palmer.
„ J. R. Boddy, J.P.	„ H. Piggins, J.P.
„ J. W. Cooper.	„ T. H. Rose.
„ J. Cuthbert.	„ C. Rowell.
„ A. L. Dobbs.	„ T.W. Selby.
„ H. W. Farrow, J.P.	„ A. Tubbs.
„ T. Fines, (Wingland).	„ H. Waltham.
„ T. Fines, (Gedney).	„ R. Weston.
„ C. Hesketh.	„ A. White, J.P.
„ I. K. Howes.	

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

H. P. Burrowes, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H.
Home Telephone Number—Spalding 3687.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR—

W. B. Hitchings, B.Sc. (Hons.), M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.M.Inst.P.C.,
A.Inst.S.P.

DISTRICT PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS—

G. Draycott, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.
B. F. Larkinson, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

CLERKS—

Miss. F. J. Whelpton.
Miss. V. Jackson.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29182347>

East Elloe Rural District Council,
Mattimore House, Holbeach.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1958

To the Chairman & Members of the East Elloe Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report on the health of your district for the year 1958.

The year 1958 has been another year of slow but steady progress. No major slum clearance schemes were undertaken but Closing or Demolition Orders were placed on seventeen individually unfit houses. As a result of the determined efforts of the public health inspectors there has been a little improvement in the hygeinic standards of food premises. The conditions in slaughterhouses, however, are still not satisfactory and in some cases a considerable amount of work will have to be done to bring these up to the required standard.

Towards the end of the year your Council started to build eighteen one bedroomed bungalows for old people at Stukely in Holbeach. This progressive scheme shows that the Council is taking up the challenge presented by the elderly in the community and it is to be hoped that it will not be long before similar schemes are started in other parishes. In the meantime however I feel that some practical step should be taken to co-ordinate the services for the elderly. Ready lip service is paid to the need for co-operation but I am not persuaded that everything possible is being done to integrate the various agencies concerned in the care of the aged. Your Council has a twofold interest in the care of the aged. Firstly as a housing authority, and secondly as a sanitary authority you have grave responsibilities laid upon you by Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948. If your Council does not wish to become a "rubber stamp" in relation to the second matter I feel that it will be necessary to actively interest yourself in the care of the aged in your district and endeavour to establish a permanent liason with the Local Health and Welfare Authorities.

I am, Madam, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. P. BURROWES,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The district is mainly agricultural and covers an area of 84,597 acres.
The Rateable Value, 1st April, 1958 : £140,415.
The Rateable Value, 1st April, 1959 : £156,767.
The Sum represented by one penny rate at 1st April, 1959 :
(estimated) £604.
The number of inhabited houses according to the rate book at
31. 3. 59 number 7172.

VITAL STATISTICS

Estimated Mid-Year Population (Register-General) 22,660.			
Births.	Males	Females	Total
Livebirths			
Legitimate	177	143	320
Illegitimate	12	6	18
	—	—	—
	189	149	338
	—	—	—
Stillbirths			
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	—	—
	3	3	6
	—	—	—
Deaths.			
All Ages	134	119	253
Infants under 1 year of age :			
Legitimate	1	4	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	—	—
	1	4	5
	—	—	—
Infants under 4 weeks of age :			
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	—	—
	1	1	2
	—	—	—
Statistics relating to mothers and infants.			
Live Births :	338		
Live Birth rate :	15.36		
Stillbirths :	6		
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirths) ;	17.44		
Total live and stillbirths :	344		
Infant deaths	5		
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births :	14.79		
,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	legitimate births :	15.63	
,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	illegitimate births :	0.	

Neo-natal Mortality rate (first four weeks) per 1,000 related live births : 5.92

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births : 5.33

Maternal deaths (including abortion) : Nil.

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births : Nil.

CAUSES AND NUMBERS OF DEATHS IN EAST ELLOE RURAL DISTRICT DURING 1958

			Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	.....	1	—	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	.....	1	—	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	.....	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	.....	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	.....	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	.....	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	.....	—	—	—
8.	Measles	.....	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	.....	—	1	1
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	.....	2	1	3
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	.....	5	2	7
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	.....	—	6	6
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	.....	—	2	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	.....	10	11	21
15.	Leukaemia and Aleukeamia	.....	—	1	1
16.	Diabetes	.....	—	2	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	.....	17	24	41
18.	Coronary disease, angina	.....	19	15	34
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	.....	5	1	6
20.	Other heart disease	.....	12	21	33
21.	Other circulatory disease	.....	8	3	11
22.	Influenza	.....	2	2	4
23.	Pneumonia	.....	6	4	10
24.	Bronchitis	.....	7	2	9
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	.....	—	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	.....	3	—	3
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	.....	—	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	.....	4	—	4
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	.....	3	—	3
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	.....	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	.....	—	2	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	.....	18	12	30
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	.....	5	1	6
34.	All other accidents	.....	5	3	8
35.	Suicide	.....	1	1	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	.....	—	—	—
Total number of deaths :			134	119	253

COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

The birth and death rates have been corrected by using the comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General and these figures may therefore be compared with those of England and Wales.

	East Elloe Rural District	England and Wales
Live Birth Rate	15.36	16.4
Death Rate	11.17	11.7
Infant Mortality Rate	14.79	22.5
Stillbirth Rate	17.44	21.6

Generally the statistics indicate that there is a reasonably high standard of living in your area.

While it is satisfying to see that deaths from all infectious diseases only number 6, I would draw your attention to the fact that no less than fourteen lives were wasted as a result of accidents. Last year the Council co-operated zealously in a Home Safety Campaign and I would urge the Council to continue to do everything in its power to inform the public of the importance of accident prevention in the home and on the road.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE (Excluding Tuberculosis)

Disease	Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever	15
Whooping Cough	72
Acute Poliomyelitis	—
Measles	29
Diphtheria	—
Pneumonia	15
Dysentery	—
Enteric Fever	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—
Erysipelas	2
Meningococcal Infection	1
Food Poisoning	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—
Total :	134

Analysis of Cases of Infectious Disease under Age Groups.

Disease	Age Group in years								Total
	under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & over	Not known	
Scarlet Fever	—	—	2	9	3	1	—	—	15
Whooping Cough	10	8	21	31	2	—	—	—	72
Measles	—	3	2	19	4	—	—	1	29
Pneumonia	1	1	—	—	1	1	11	—	15
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Meningococcal Infection	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total cases :	11	13	25	59	10	2	13	1	134

There were several sporadic cases of scarlet fever last year. All were investigated and found to be mild and supervision of preventive measures was left to the family doctor.

Several cases of whooping cough were also notified. In most cases the illness was mild and credit for this must be given to immunisation against whooping cough which is now carried out extensively. It is important that the introduction of poliomyelitis vaccination should not allow parents to become indifferent to the need for protecting their children against whooping cough and diphtheria.

In the early part of the year there was a large outbreak of epidemic winter vomiting at Gedney Church End. This illness often simulates food-poisoning and may therefore cause unwarranted criticism of school meals. The Gedney Church End outbreak was carefully investigated and I am sure that the infection was not spread by school meals or milk.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Immunisation for the year 1958 (Diphtheria).

Between the 1st January, 1958 and the 31st December, 1958, 216 children under five years of age, and 18 children between the ages of 5 and 14 years, received a primary immunisation course (3 injections at monthly intervals).

A further 246 children were given a "booster" or secondary injection.

The following table compiled from figures supplied by the County Medical Officer shows the numbers and percentage of the child population immunised at any time during the years 1944-1958 inclusive.

District	Under 1 year		1 and under 5 years		5-14 years	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Boston Borough	72	17.2	1236	81.8	3644	92.2
Spalding Urban	42	17.8	689	82.5	2160	97.7
Boston Rural	43	11.7	1005	72.6	3149	89.9
East Elloe Rural	48	18.1	961	64.2	3455	91.4
Spalding Rural	41	12.4	830	71.1	3003	95.0
Totals	246	15.2	4721	75.4	15411	92.8

TUBERCULOSIS

				M.	F.	Total
Cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at 31/12/58.	{	Pulmonary ...	...	41	39	80
		Non-pulmonary	...	6	1	7
Cases removed from the Register as cured during 1958.	{	Pulmonary ...	...	2	—	2
		Non-pulmonary	...	—	1	1
Cases removed from the Register due to diagnosis not being confirmed during 1958.	{	Pulmonary ...	...	—	1	1
		Non-pulmonary	...	1	—	1
Cases added to the Register during 1958.	{	Pulmonary ...	...	3	5	8
		Non-pulmonary	...	—	—	—

The total number of cases on the Register at 31. 12 .58 was 87.

Eight names were added to the Register during 1958 and six cases were removed : three were cured, one left the district, and two cases were not confirmed.

Analysis of new cases and deaths during 1957.

AGE GROUP	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			Non-				Non-	
	Pulmonary M.	F.	Pulmonary M.	F.	Pulmonary M.	F.	Pulmonary M.	F.
Under 5 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-25 years	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65 years	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—

COMMENTS :

There was a reduction this year and in two of the cases reported there was a distinct possibility that the infection may have been picked up outside the area.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) Hospitals.

Holbeach Hospital is attended by the various specialists at given intervals. It is a general practitioner's hospital and a duty rota is maintained by all the practitioners in the District.

(b) Ambulance Service.

A standing Joint Committee representative of the Local Medical Committee, the Hospital Management Committee and the County Council, aims at ensuring the efficiency of this Service.

(c) Midwifery and Maternity Services.

The County Council is the supervising authority under the Midwives Acts.

(d) Health Visiting.

Health Visitors attend infant welfare and ante-natal clinics, visit expectant and nursing mothers and mental defectives.

(e) Clinic and Treatment Services.

Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-natal clinics are provided by the County Council at Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge.

Ophthalmological examinations are provided by appointment at Holbeach Clinic.

Speech Therapy is provided by appointment at Holbeach Clinic.

Vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough are provided at all Infant Welfare Clinics.

(f) Home Nursing.

A home nursing service is maintained by the County Council.

(g) Home Helps.

This service is provided by the County Council and is available to the public during illness or in the later months of pregnancy.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—Section 47.

In February, 1958, the department was consulted about a person in need of care and attention. She was persuaded to enter part three accommodation, voluntarily.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Water Supply.

A good wholesome supply of water is supplied to your district. A detailed report from Mr. Rippin, the Water Engineer is given on page eleven.

Housing.

Reference has already been made to the Council's new housing scheme for old people. As the scheme is extended it will be necessary to bear in mind the nature and the magnitude of the demand. Professor Brockington of Manchester University has shown that an increasing proportion of people over 65 will be spinsters or widows. This should be borne in mind when planning further schemes for the aged. At the same time that rugged independent minority, the elderly bachelor or widower, should not be forgotten. They have special problems and need special consideration. Very often years of living alone makes them develop an intractable misogyny and any suggestion of entering a Welfare home under the care of a matron is therefore rejected out of hand. At the same time they do not feed or clothe themselves adequately, they spend less and less time on personal hygiene, and in addition to this the prostatic disorders which accompany old age may lead at the least to an unpleasant personal aroma and at the worst to anti-social behaviour. The community is therefore not keen to have them, they and the Welfare homes mutually reject one another, and the Hospital Management Committee do not consider them to be hospital cases. I am sure that if they were re-housed before they went too far down the hill they would be able to care for themselves adequately with a little assistance, maybe, from a suitable home help.

The progress with slum clearance is slow but in many ways this is due to outside causes. I am particularly concerned about the condition of the prefabricated houses which the Council owns. Most of these are at present living on borrowed time and are deteriorating rapidly. The Council should bear in mind that it may well be necessary to demolish a considerable number of them during the next five or six years.

During the year 14 Council houses were improved by the addition of water closets but no bathrooms have been added.

Refuse Collection and Sewerage.

Your Council continues to maintain a most efficient and comprehensive collection system in the face of great difficulties. The foundation of this system would be greatly strengthened if the Council would encourage all landlords to provide a proper dust bin for their tenants.

The plans for the Holbeach sewerage scheme was discussed on several occasions during the year and a little progress has been made.

WATER SUPPLY

The following details have been kindly supplied by the Council's Water Engineer and Manager, Mr. H. Rippin.

The total quantity of water received at the Weston Pumping Station during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1958 was 276,900,000 gallons. This is the main receiving point of the bulk supply for East Elloe, and both the Spalding Urban District Council and the Spalding Rural District Council deliver water to that point.

During the year under review, the proportion was approximately 57% and 43% respectively.

The total water pumped into the East Elloe area was 236,823,000 gallons, which gives a daily average of 648,830 gallons.

In addition, a bulk supply was delivered into the Weston and Moulton areas of the Spalding R.D.C. district from the Weston Pumping Station, and a small bulk supply was afforded to the Tydd and Newton areas of the Wisbech and District Water Board.

The two factors which appear to be directly attributable to the mixing of the two bulk supplies i.e. from Bourne (Spalding U.D.C.) and from Pinchbeck (Spalding R.D.C.) are as follows :—

1. The water is slightly softer $23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ as against 26° Clark's Scale.
2. The fluorine content is slightly higher 0.25 p.p.m. and nearer the optimum requirement.

The scheme to put the bulk supply from the Spalding R.D.C. on a permanent basis by the laying of a 10 in. diameter trunk main from the Pinchbeck Tower to Weston Tower was still under discussion with the Ministry. It was, however, expected that the whole matter would be finalised, and work started early in 1959.

The Council's own scheme for duplicating the trunk main from Whaplode to Holbeach by laying a 12 in. diameter spun iron main between these points was finalised, and tenders accepted towards the end of the year. It was expected that this work would start in the early part of 1959, and be completed in time to meet the peak demand of the mid-summer.

The Scheme to lay a 9 in. main from Lime Walk to Roman Bank, Long Sutton to ensure a reliable and adequate supply to the new school, was completed during the year.

A number of small distribution mains extensions were carried out during the year sometimes with assisted excavations by the applicants.

Negotiations with the Air Ministry were completed to purchase the 4 in. diameter main extending from the West Bank of the river Nene, and crossing under the river to the entrance of the Air Force Camp at Sutton Bridge. This was in consequence of the closure of the Camp by the Air Ministry.

Meetings and discussions were continued during the year on the proposed Joint Water Board for the area and reasonable progress was made.

Bacteriological Examinations.

102 samples of water were taken in the year by the public health inspectors and sent to Dr. Croll of the Public Health Laboratory Service at Lincoln for bacteriological reports. Of these 31 were routine samples of mains water taken at suitable points as a check on the purity of the supply, and all were reported as excellent. In addition, 28 samples were taken from several new lengths of mains. In one case results of a series of samples were unsatisfactory and the extension was not brought into use until satisfactory samples had been obtained. Also 32 samples of mains water were obtained from the local canning factory, and on receipt of reports of some unsatisfactory samples, the management immediately had the remedial measures suggested carried out.

Samples taken from four wells all proved polluted and the persons using them were informed and advised of the precautions to be taken. In one case connection to the mains was affected, in another case it was possible but has not yet been carried out and connection of the other two properties is not yet practicable. Nevertheless, comment must be made of the very widespread coverage of water mains which already exists to the houses in this large rural district.

Other samples of water taken included two satisfactory samples from above-ground rainwater tanks, two unsatisfactory ones from a popular bathing stretch of the South Holland main drain and two satisfactory ones from a children's paddling pool.

Chemical Examination.

A sample of mains water was sent for full chemical examination on 26th November, 1957 and the analyst's opinion on it was as follows :-

“ This water is of very good organic quality and the chemical analysis does not show any sign of pollution. The total hardness approximates to $23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ Clark, of which all but 6° is temporary and due to dissolved chalk.

“ The reaction is well on the alkaline side of neutrality, the free carbonic acid content being low, so that this water would not be expected to have any serious corrosive action on metals. Iron and other metals were in fact absent from the sample, which was of very satisfactory appearance, odour and taste. In our opinion this water is well adapted to the purposes of a public supply.

“ The results call for no special comment except to point out that the fluorine content of 0.25 p.p.m. is a little above average for East Anglian water supplies ”.

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector on the Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

The Health Department is directly concerned with the lives of the people. With their housing, food, removal of waste materials, abatement of nuisances and control of infectious disease.

In carrying out their duties, all members of the Public Health Department inevitably come into contact with the public. I cannot speak too highly of your Health Inspectors, the Clerks and the Workmen for the friendly, tactful and efficient way in which they carry out their duties. The maintenance of good relations is a "must" for a Department which, so often, has to ask people to spend considerable sums of money or to undergo the loss of property.

1958 has been a year of progress but this has not been as fast in certain directions as had been hoped.

For a variety of reasons, slum clearance work has, more or less, marked time. Old properties here and there have been dealt with but no substantial numbers in any particular areas. A recurring problem is that of the owner who is naturally reluctant to carry out repairs to property which is not worth repairing and, consequently, asks for it to be "condemned". The Council's problem is that of re-housing the tenant. Although property defects may be serious the Council is not always able to re-house and is faced with the problems of deciding the minimum repairs necessary to make the property tolerable and how to persuade a reluctant owner to do them.

So far as food is concerned the position was brighter. As mentioned later, 100% inspection of all locally killed meat has been achieved and the degree of co-operation with the butchers has never been better. Conditions in the food shops are steadily improving although the arrangements for the protection of food are not always what is desired.

Further extensions of the refuse collection service have been carried out and there is now very little of the district in which this service is not available. There are three further objectives : Provision of satisfactory dust bins, weekly collections and collection of bins from the rear of premises.

Salvage collection has increased so far as paper and cardboard are concerned but there is little or no market for the lighter forms of iron scrap.

Like slum clearance, the proposals for main sewerage have also marked time. A sewerage scheme in the urban area is not an amenity it is an essential. Only with it can the public enjoy completely the benefits of modern sanitation and be spared the nuisances inevitable with any compromise.

The incidence of infectious disease has again been low reflecting the basic healthiness of the people and their way of life.

And, for the future, the vistas of public health are ever increasing. There has yet to come full implementation of the following recent legislation :—

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

Clean Air Act, 1956 and Regulations made thereunder.

Litter Act, 1958.

Slaughterhouses Act, 1958 and Hygiene Regulations.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958 and Prevention of Cruelty Regulations.

In addition, a new Housing Improvement Grant scheme is expected, and there are also signs of possible amendments to the Public Health Act, 1936.

I conclude in thanking the Members, and in particular, the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, for their advice and support, Dr. Burrowes for his encouragement, the Members of the Department for their loyalty and enthusiasm and all the Officers of the Council for their ever present help and co-operation at all times.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

W. B. HITCHINGS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

NUISANCES

Complaints.

A total of 135 complaints were registered during 1958 on diverse matters as grouped below :—

General housing defects	.....	.....	.....	44
Overcrowding	.....	.....	.....	2
Unclean houses	.....	.....	.....	4
Defective or inadequate closets	.....	.....	.....	4
Defective, blocked or inadequate drainage	.....	.....	.....	16
Defective refuse receptacles	.....	.....	.....	1
Water in cellars	.....	.....	.....	2
Defective or overflowing cesspools	.....	.....	.....	11
Nuisance from emptying of cesspools	.....	.....	.....	4
Nuisance from sewage disposal works	.....	.....	.....	2
Nuisance from road gullies	.....	.....	.....	1
Poor land drainage	.....	.....	.....	2
Indiscriminate tipping	.....	.....	.....	5
Offensive accumulations	.....	.....	.....	5
Nuisance from slaughterhouses	.....	.....	.....	2
Refuse collection service	.....	.....	.....	1
Public Conveniences	.....	.....	.....	1
Nuisance from pig-keeping	.....	.....	.....	7
Insect Pests	.....	.....	.....	8
Rats	.....	.....	.....	11
Smoke nuisances	.....	.....	.....	2

Complaints of delay in emptying of cesspools which were received towards the end of the year have not been included above. The delays were due to exceptionally heavy demand on the service following a wet season and illness in the staff of the Department. All possible measures were taken including overtime working and it is hoped that the purchasing of a further cesspool emptier will assist in future, but as the demand for the service fluctuates seasonally, a waiting list is inevitable at times.

Rivers—Pollution.

The Nene River Board brought into operation in the year new Byelaws regulating discharges into watercourses under their jurisdiction. The gross pollution of the dykes around Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge must be tolerated until a proper system of sewers serves the areas.

Joint inspection was made with the River Board officer to a dyke badly polluted after passing a poultry farm. The appropriate authority was also notified when about 200 dead bream were seen in the Old South Eau river.

Offensive Trades.

No offensive trades, as defined by the Public Health Act, are carried on in the district.

SANITATION OF BUILDINGS

Main Sewerage.

Many attempts by the Council to purchase by agreement sites for sewage disposal works were unsuccessful and so it was decided to invoke compulsory powers as soon as the proposed schemes were amended to embrace new development which has taken place since the original plans were drawn up.

The implementation of these schemes, costly as they will be, is the basic necessity for the proper environmental hygiene of the district. The dire need for the schemes increases each year as will the cost and difficulty of construction. To dispose of drainage from the central areas of the three townships concerned becomes increasingly more troublesome both for the occupiers of the property and for the cleansing services of this department, and is only achieved in many cases by continued use of street surface water drains for soil drainage thus converting them, and the several water courses they discharge into, into open sewers.

Sewage Disposal Plants.

The Health Department maintains 27 small sewage plants, 21 serving Council housing estates, 4 serving schools, 1 serving a hostel and an invalids' home. Weekly attention is given by the department's own labour and regular de-sludging carried out. Field tests are made on the effluents provided, and the River Board also take samples and report on effluents although in several cases the effluent is of a higher standard than the watercourse into which it enters.

In the year the Council agreed to have the settlement tanks and filters at eight plants cement-rendered by specialists to prevent further deterioration to the exposed brickwork.

Public Conveniences.

During 1958 new public conveniences were opened at Holbeach for men and women, and a small electric incinerator installed in the latter section. These conveniences, together with those available at Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge are administered by the Parish Councils

Temporary sanitary conveniences were made available by this department for the influx of visitors touring the tulip fields in May and for various outdoor events.

Schools.

It is very satisfactory to report that all the schools in the area are provided with water closets.

Supervision of Drainage Work.

All new drainage work is seen and tested by the public health inspectors. Owing to a high water table, particularly in winter months, the commonly accepted form of small septic tank installation with filter is not practical in this district and so the system recommended consists simply of a settlement tank overflowing to a circular, hollow brick soakaway which relies on the excellent pervious properties of the silt subsoil which occurs over most of the area.

New drainage works at 115 private houses and 28 council houses were inspected in the year. In addition, advice was given on request to aid the conversion of closets to the water carriage system and to examine the functioning of existing drainage systems.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

This service includes the collection of domestic and trade refuse, salvage, the emptying of sanitary pails, privy vaults and cesspools. The work is carried out by direct labour under the supervision of the Health Department. Brief notes on the various sections of the Cleansing Service are given below.

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

A kerbside collection is provided, weekly in the urban areas and fortnightly in the rural. Extensions of the service were made to Gedney Common, Whale Drove and Dog Drove. At the request of a neighbouring authority arrangements were made for the collection of refuse from a number of their houses which were already on the route of our collecting vehicle.

Increasing collections have necessitated use of the relay system in the urban areas and assistance with additional vehicle in the rural parts. There is little doubt that, sooner or later, the question of weekly collection in the rural areas will have to be given consideration.

Whilst the vehicles used for collection work are all of the same make they are all of different types. Each type has its advantages and disadvantages but, taking everything into consideration, it would seem that the fore-and-aft type of tipper with its high capacity and low-loading line has much to commend it. A trailer is used with each vehicle to allow for the separate collection of salvage and one of the difficulties is that of establishing an equation between vehicle and trailer capacities. It is obviously no use having a large capacity refuse vehicle if the trailer it pulls is full when the vehicle is only three-quarters full. Roof racks are fitted to the vehicles to give additional salvage capacity.

Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping. This is an economic method of disposal and one which not only gets rid of the refuse but enables the Council to get rid of many a pit which is a source of nuisance owing to indiscriminate tipping often near to dwellings. One such pit which was filled during the year was at Gedney Church End and work was commenced at another in Fishpond Lane, Holbeach. The main tip was however near Long Sutton and, when it had been filled, another, near Tydd St. Mary, was made use of. This particular pit should be most suitable and would be appropriate for purchase for long-term operation as it could be used for cesspool and vault disposal as well as refuse. Its use will also remove a nuisance which has long existed owing to indiscriminate use by persons from over a wide area.

Considerable fly nuisance was experienced at the tips and it is felt that this in part is due to the unsatisfactory type of refuse container in use and to the fortnightly collection in the rural areas. Requiring of the provision of satisfactory type dust bins is long overdue and their use would remove one of the big objections to kerbside collection. Kerbside collection does however provide a problem for the aged and is a matter to which it is felt attention and thought could well be given.

(b) Salvage Collection and Disposal.

Salvage, principally paper and cardboard, is collected at the same time as the refuse. Trailers are attached to the refuse vehicles for this purpose. Special collections are made from business premises in the urban areas. The amounts collected are increasing as the following figures show.

Material		Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Paper and Cardboard	.....	282	6	3	2108	12	1
Textiles	.....	4	17	3	74	13	8
Ferrous Metals	.....	8	16	1	39	16	7
Non-ferrous Metals	.....		9	1	32	10	7
Sundries	.....				1	16	11
Totals		296	10	0	£2257	9	10

The increasing quantities of paper and cardboard now being collected will soon necessitate consideration of some form of mechanical paper baling. The inevitable bigger bales will however bring loading problems in their wake.

The market for light ferrous scrap has now almost completely disappeared and only £40 worth as opposed to £250 worth in 1957 was sold.

Total value of salvage sold since the present scheme began in 1940 is £26,655.

(c) Sanitary Pail Collection and Disposal.

As the use of pail closets is still common the collection of their contents is still an unfortunate necessity. Collection is carried out in the evenings from some 800-900 premises in the urban parts of Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge. As has been mentioned before this service is one which is objectionable not only to the householder but to the person who is unfortunate enough to be passing by in the street.

Disposal is by composting in well drained ground-level tanks. The product is similar to farm-yard manure and several local farmers make use of it for agricultural purposes. Sites in use are situated at Whaplode and Holbeach.

(d) Cesspool and Vault Emptying.

This work is carried out with suction-type emptiers. Four are in use the oldest of which was first registered in 1939 and is "still going strong". The most recent vehicle has a diesel engine and a fully opening rear door. Both these features have proved their value. Experiments are going on over the use of polythene pipes and the indications are that they will be most satisfactory. They are lighter in weight, cheaper in price and, of course, free from corrosion problems.

Service is given over the whole district and free of charge, to every house providing that it is not required at less than twelve-monthly intervals. Demands for the service are still increasing and a total of 8,574 cesspools and vaults were emptied during the year. Allowance is made in this figure for the emptying of rain water cisterns, sludge tanks, etc. There has been an increase of over 8% on last year's total. The income for chargeable work was £1756—an increase of over 13% on last year's figure.

Disposal is effected in various ways. By composting with straw in tanks, discharge into irrigation trenches and spreading on arable or grass land.

HOUSING

Provision of new houses.

With the completion of 14 houses at Chestnut Terrace, Sutton Bridge, and further development at Hall Hill Road, the number of Council owned houses at 1st June, 1959 is as follows :—

(a) Permanent Houses.

Erected prior to 1945	869
Completed since 1945	800
Under erection	23

(b) Temporary Bungalows.

At Holbeach and Sutton Bridge	69
Converted ex-R.A.F. Hutments at Sutton Bridge	42

New dwellings completed during the year.

(a) By the Council	30
(b) By private enterprise	32

Applications for Council houses.

A "points" scheme is in operation for the selection of tenants for Council houses, based on a number of factors such as condition of house, size and age of family, illness, service in H.M. Forces, period on waiting list, etc. All applications are dealt with on a parish basis by the members for the particular parish. The Health Department occasionally, and generally only on a Member's request, makes report on the housing conditions of applicants. These reports are then attached to the housing application forms. Sixteen such reports were made in the year, apart from representations by the Medical Officer of Health on personal health grounds.

At the present time there are approximately 470 applications on the list.

Overcrowding.

There was one serious case of overcrowding brought to notice. After being visited by the Medical Officer the family concerned moved from the district. Another family living in overcrowded conditions were re-housed by the Council.

There are no common lodging houses or canal boats in the district.

Slum Clearance.

Houses demolished during the year :—

- (a) As a result of Clearance Orders :— 13 (39 persons in
19 families were displaced)
- (b) As a result of Individual Orders :— 10 (No persons
displaced)

Houses closed during the year :—

- (a) As a result of official undertakings—7 (14 persons in
5 families were displaced)
- (b) By informal agreement with owners—2 (No persons
were displaced)

The first phase of the Holbeach slum clearance programme has been carried through in the year and orders were placed on several individual unfit houses as they became vacant to prevent their re-occupation. Apart from this there has been no progress in the comprehensive slum clearance programme which was agreed by the Council and approved by the Ministry and it does not now appear that the first five year programme will be completed by the end of 1960.

In many cases owners realise their properties are worn out and they are aware of the difficult conditions that their tenants are living under, and are therefore willing to close or demolish the dwellings when they become vacant. Only the lack of alternative accommodation for the occupants is holding up slum clearance work and there is urgent need in every parish to build new dwellings for this purpose.

Housing Repairs.

During 1958, a total of 53 houses were repaired by owners after informal action. In several of these cases a more appropriate action would have been re-housing of the occupants and procedure to secure demolition of the premises if only alternative housing had been available. The increasing number of owner-occupiers and, to some extent, the effect of increases in rent under the Rent Act, 1957, has in this district arrested the decay of many of the older properties but there still remain many houses on which for various reasons owners are unwilling to spend money.

Certificate of Disrepair.

Number of applications received for Certificates of Disrepair	10
Number of decisions not to issue such Certificates	..... Nil
Number of decisions to issue Certificates :—	
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	..... 9
(b) in respect of all defects	..... 1
Number of undertakings given by landlords	..... 6
Number of such undertakings refused	..... Nil
Number of applications for cancellation of Certificate	..... 1
Number of objections by tenants to cancellation	..... Nil
Number of certificates cancelled by local authority	..... 1

It is unfortunate that the Rent Act, 1957 does not appear to give a landlord specific authority to enter the house to carry out repairs as a tenant may prevent increase of rent by applying for a Certificate of Disrepair and subsequently refuse access to the builder to effect these repairs.

Improvement Grants.

Applications were received for grants to improve 5 dwellings. Together with the Council's Architect, the properties were inspected and all were approved for a 25% grant toward the cost of improvements. In the year the work at 11 properties qualifying for grant had been satisfactorily completed.

Moveable Dwellings.

Licences issued in respect of moveable dwellings	..... 39
Licences issued in respect of sites	..... 4

The licensed moveable dwellings are almost all modern trailer caravans used for permanent residence. The sites are generally well kept, although attention to the drainage system was required at one site during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Inspection of Food Premises.

The table below gives a classified list of food premises in the district.

Bakery and confectionery premises	.....	15
Butchery premises	.....	26
Canning and bottling premises	.....	2
Canteens at schools, works, hospitals	.....	24
Catering premises proper	.....	29
Dairy and ice-cream premises	.....	2
Fried fish and chip saloons	.....	18
Fruit and greengrocery premises	.....	9
Grocery and provisions premises	.....	72
Licensed houses and clubs	.....	89
Small general stores	.....	14
Sweet confectionery	.....	22
		322

18 premises are registered by the Council for the manufacture of sausages and preserved meats. There are 18 fish fryer's premises in operation in the district.

During the year informal notices were sent to the occupiers of 36 food premises requiring the provision of facilities to conform to the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955-1957, and the great majority of the work specified has been carried out. No statutory action was found to be necessary. The number of visits made to food premises has been restricted as the amount of the inspectors' time available for this work is very limited but, if not spectacular, a general improvement in hygienic standards has been noticed since the regulations came into force. There is still a long way to go before one can be complacent on this subject, and a great obstacle will be removed when main sewerage is available in the urbanised areas as it is difficult to talk to a trader on details of hygiene knowing there exists a pail or vault closet and cess-pool just at the back of the shop ; there would be less objection on his part to the installation of an extra sink or wash-hand basin if there were no difficulty in disposing of waste water. Furthermore, the smell caused when emptying cesspools in a shopping area does cause offence.

Proper screened display and protection of open food on display in the shops and stalls leaves much to be desired and the lack of space in some of the small general shops makes the premises difficult to keep clean and rodent-proof. The popularity of the modern small capacity delivery van in place of the larger, taller van with roof ventilators is regrettable. These small vans are seldom of insulated construction and the interior becomes very warm during the summer months. Consequently the back-board between the driver and the goods is omitted and cooling is effected when in motion by opening the side windows at the front so allowing dust and dirt from the road to blow onto the food.

The modern demand for pre-packed food has resulted in several vegetable packing stations starting up. Unfortunately these factories appear to be outside the scope of most of the Food Hygiene Regulations, but at any rate the washing and packing of carrots in these premises is much more satisfactory than by using the transportable apparatus commented upon in last year's report.

Frequent inspections were made at the large canning factory in the district. Following suggestions made to prevent entry of foreign objects into their products, steam injection of empty cans is now provided on most lines and most empty cans travel on their side along the tracks ; in addition, precautions are taken to keep flying insects out of the factory as far as possible. Representation was made in the year among other matters to maintain adequate hot water supplies for hand washing and hygienic hand drying facilities. Since hot water has to be supplied over washing facilities at the majority of food premises, it might be supplied over school cloakroom wash basins with advantage if only in the teaching of personal hygiene to children.

Control of Milk Supplies.

The whole of the Rural District is included in a specified area where only designated milk may normally be sold by retail. There is only one dairy in the district registered by the Council, this for the bottling of Tuberculin Tested milk. Milk which has been pasteurised, however, forms the bulk of the district's supply. There were no reports during the year of brucella abortus infections in man.

Eleven distributors have been registered and licences were issued as follows authorising the use of special designations.

Designation	Dealer's licences	Supplementary licences
Pasteurised	10	5
Sterilised	8	4
Tuberculin Tested	4	5
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	9	1

Ten samples of milks were taken in the year for the statutory tests and all complied. It is hoped that a more frequent sampling routine will be possible in future, but the distance from the Public Health Laboratory is a drawback.

The checking that only graded milk is sold in the area is a function of the Holland County Council as is the sampling for chemical analysis to detect adulteration, and biological sampling for the detection of live tuberculosis and brucellosis. For these purposes regular samples have been taken by the County Public Health Inspector.

In collaboration with the Ministry Milk Production officers, improvements to the drainage at one dairy farm in the district were asked for and this work was carried out.

Ice Cream Control.

Premises in use during the year under review comprise one " cold-mix " manufacturer and 61 premises registered for sale and storage. In addition, there are sales by caterers, cinemas, and vehicles. Most of the latter are very well equipped and are kept immaculately.

The expansion of the trade in post-war years into so many shops, of varying types, seems to have settled down and, particularly since the incorporation of milk as an ingredient, the undesirability of extending its sale further to shops where dissimilar commodities are handled should be borne in mind. The ice-cream industry have made their product very safe, and almost invariably it is sold wrapped, but it should be regarded as a dairy product and its sale confined to the " clean " trades.

Three samples were taken in the year and all gave Provisional Grade 1 results to the Methylene Blue Test. A more regular sampling routine is proposed for the future as this commodity now takes such an important place in every-day diet. Sampling for compositional quality is carried out by the County Public Health Inspector.

Slaughterhouses.

Eight of the nine licensed slaughterhouses were in use during the year and on the whole were very well kept. Proper drainage disposal is a difficulty at all of them and frequent emptying of cesspools is necessary. The three slaughterhouses situated in the built-up areas find particular difficulty in this respect and even with goodwill and co-operation from the slaughterhouses occupiers, unsatisfactory conditions do arise on occasion from this drainage problem. Only the provision of the proposed main sewerage offers a solution here. If this is made available and the new constructional regulations complied with, these slaughterhouses will not be places to be ashamed of.

During the year, 33 licences were issued to slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals Acts.

Meat Inspection.

With some effort on the inspectors' part and very good co-operation from the butchers, 100% inspection of locally killed food animals has again been achieved. In this case " animals " do not include birds but occasional checks were made on wholesale and retail poultry stocks, especially as Christmas drew near. If the present increase in the poultry trade continues, more attention will have to be given to this side of meat inspection.

The slight reduction in the total kill in the district is due to a greatly diminished use of one slaughterhouse and it is a matter of conjecture as to whether this trait will extend. There has, however, been no reduction in the number of casualty animals admitted to the slaughterhouses "to save their lives." They totalled 125 animals during this year and the various post-mortem conditions included typical, easily recognisable lesions but most did not at all simulate text-book descriptions. It is satisfying but exacting work to salvage as much of this meat as possible without subjecting the consumer to any risk.

As was expected, the decline in tuberculosis as a disease of cattle has not this year been reflected in the meat inspection figures, no doubt due to more owners removing reactors from their herds and sending them in for slaughter. Many of the other diseases continue without decline, including distomatosis, Johne's disease, bowel oedema, warble-fly damage, actinomycosis and cysticercosis, the latter being found in 2.2% of adult cattle killed in the area.

On one day, four of the five bullocks presented for inspection by one butcher were found to have multiple viable cysts, mostly in the heart muscles. It was ascertained that these beast had come directly from one field on a nearby farm. This farm had been earlier suspected after two previous cases of *cysticercus bovis*, one of which was generalised and had been reported by the inspector from an adjoining authority, but it was then not possible with any certainty to trace back through various owners of the cattle. After investigations on the farm, it was observed that a dyke passed along one side of the field in which the beast had been grazing and it was found that this dyke received some untreated drainage from houses as well as purified effluent from a sewage plant. A fence prevented the animals' access, but the dyke had been cleaned out and the sludge thrown through the fence onto the pasture. To prevent risk of further infections the farmer and land owner were both contacted and agreed to plough up the field and grow crops on it. Progress in the proposed sewerage schemes may therefore be a help in the reduction of this tapeworm infection which is difficult to detect and then to trace to its source, is costly to the butcher and can be very distressing to its final host.

Amount of Meat Condemned at Slaughterhouses

Year	Affected with Tuberculosis		Affected with Other Disease		Total weight	
1954	2 tons	3 cwts.	2 tons	2 cwts.	4 tons	5 cwts.
1955	4 tons	6 cwts.	4 tons	8 cwts.	8 tons	14 cwts.
1956	2 tons	18 cwts.	4 tons	14 cwts.	7 tons	12 cwts.
1957	2 tons	13 cwts.	8 tons	5 cwts.	10 tons	18 cwts.
1958	2 tons	5 cwts.	8 tons	9 cwts.	10 tons	14 cwts.

All meat condemned is green-stained before despatch for sterilisation.

The firms collecting slaughterhouse waste and condemned meat provide an excellent service, but the escape of some liquid through the floors of the lorries is regrettable.

Meat inspection figures for 1958.

Class of animal	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1306	27	15	1094	3911
Number inspected	1306	27	15	1094	3911
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	5	2	5	2	46
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	369	9	4	21	407
Percentage of carcase affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	28.6	40.7	60.0	2.1	11.6
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	—	2	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	76	5	1	—	50
Percentage of carcasses affect- ed with Tuberculosis	6.0	18.5	—	—	1.3
Cysticercosis					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	30	1	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	20	1	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Inspection of Other Foods.

Throughout most of the year, weekly inspections have been made at the local canning factory to examine the large cans of fruit rejected by the factory for further processing before sale. Condemnations were as follows, the cans being disposed of by tipping in a pit in an isolated part of the area.

949 x 5	Kilo cans	Spanish Peaches
114 x 3½	„ „	„ „
260 x 3	„ „	„ „
1464 x 5	„ „	Apricots
392 x 5	„ „	Pears
106 x 5	„ „	Cherries
80 x	„ „	Pineapple

On request a special inspection was made of the foodstuffs contained in a refrigerator after the motor had caught fire. Investigations were also made after reports of early mould growth developing in pork pies manufactured in the district. The flour used in the manufacture of the pies was suspected and the condition cleared up after the flour had been changed. In addition a new cooling room was built at the wholesaler's premises and marble shelves provided in place of wooden ones and improved ventilation at the retailer's premises.

Other foods found to be unfit for consumption, voluntarily surrendered and carefully buried in the Council's controlled tips, were as follows :—

480 cans, bottles and jars of various foodstuffs.
 24 lbs. Shoulder Ham.
 112 lbs. Sausage Rusk.
 47 lbs. Margarine.
 14½ lbs. Cheese.
 2 packets Cereals.

Sampling of food and drugs for analyses by the public analyst is carried out by the County Health Officer of the Holland County Council, being Food and Drugs Authority.

DISINFESTATION

Rodent Control.

One trained rodent operator is employed part-time for survey and treatment work on rat and mice destruction, using approved Ministry methods. The time spent on this work has greatly increased over previous years due mainly to extra work on farms formerly carried out by the Agricultural Executive Committee. Whilst a free service is given to private dwelling-houses, a charge is made on an actual cost basis for work done at business and agricultural premises, but so far no contracts have been entered into. An economical service is maintained by the arrangement of employing the operator on other work in the department when not on rodent control and by carrying out jobs in the same area simultaneously so reducing travelling expenses, and by bulk-buying of materials. Some survey work is carried out by the public health inspectors in the course of their duties.

An increase in the surveying of agricultural land will be required in the future due to the disbanding of the Ministry's organisation and no doubt, more requests will be received for treatments to be undertaken.

It was necessary in the year to caution three threshing contractors who were operating without the required wire fence surrounding the stacks. Letters were also sent to occupiers of houses opposite a pit, which was continually re-infested, and in which domestic refuse was being thrown.

The following table shows the extent of work done in 1958 :—

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	1	2	3	4	5
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Business Premises	Total of 1, 2 & 3	Agricultural
Total Number of Properties in District ...	75	7056	1072	8203	1700
Number of Properties inspected during 1956 as a result of (a) Notification (b) Survey or (c) otherwise	(a) 5 (b) 26 (c) 12	62 108 102	26 30 153	93 164 267	31 44 74
Total Inspections	218	409	355	982	319
Number of Properties inspected found to be infested with (a) Rats { Major Minor (b) Mice { Major Minor	3 10 — —	— 64 — 3	— 29 — 2	3 103 — 5	11 36 — 1
Number of infested Properties treated by Local Authority	13	63	30	106	35
Total treatments carried out	19	39	34	92	60
No. of notices served under Section 4 of the Act (a) Treatment (b) Structural Work	— —	14 —	2 2	16 2	11 —
Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
Block Control Schemes	2				

Insect Control.

1958 was a troublesome year for the control of flies at refuse tips. No sooner had a tip been sprayed with insecticide than the next load of refuse brought in it a new family of flies and their maggots. By the end of the summer resistance was observed even to the latest insecticides and the advent of chill Autumn winds came with relief. There would doubtless be much less trouble if the fortnightly refuse collection rounds were stepped up to weekly ones and if Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936 was enforced to require all householders to have proper dustbins with air-tight covers.

Three dwelling-houses were treated to destroy fleas, 6 houses were treated to destroy ants and four vault closets were treated to destroy the larvae of the lesser house fly. Two wasps nests near house windows were also destroyed.

Advice was given to owners of several properties on the control and treatment of woodworm in timbers—a condition very prevalent in this area.

FACTORIES

Factories Act 1937 and 1948.

The following gives details of the inspection of factory premises in the district with regard to the health provisions of the Factories Act, 1937.

There were no prosecutions.

It will be seen that there was an increase in the number of Factories with power in the district, these comprised a carrot washing and pre-packing premises, two potato cleaning and pre-packing premises and a laundry.

Difficulty is experienced in the control of the “ agricultural ” type factory which by their products must be seasonal and of short working period.

In conjunction with H.M. Inspector of Factories washing facilities both hot and cold and sanitary accommodation have been provided. The factories Act and Food Hygiene Regulations were used as a basis although the latter do not apply to this type of food factory. I am pleased to say that the occupiers agreed to provide essential amenities for employees in premises that are only seasonal but not without argument, the usual plea being put forward that “ we are agricultural ”.

Here a definite lead by Government Departments concerned would clear the air.

	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without Power	7	2	—	—
Factories with Power	100	23	4	—
Works of building operations	8	8	—	—

No. of cases in which defects were found :—

	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences				
(a) Insufficient	2	1	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	1
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
other offences	—	—	—	—

There were no outworkers employed.

Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

Certificates for safe means of escape in case of fire have been issued in respect of a total of 7 factories in the district. In addition, certificates were also issued in respect of the condition of entrances, exits and sanitary conditions of the 3 cinemas in the district.

Atmospheric Pollution.

Further provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956 came into operation during the year. Smoke nuisances caused by two small furnaces were abated after advice was given regarding grade of fuel and method of lighting up.

From a public health point of view it is pleasing to see the considerable number of greenhouse and other small heating plants which are being converted to smokeless fuel or to mechanical stoking.

Storage of Petrol.

Licences were issued under the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act in respect of 186 petrol stores and one carbide of calcium store and revenue from this source amounted to £119 in the financial year ending March, 1959.

167 visits were made to these installations and 30 informal notices were sent requiring works to be done to comply with the conditions attached to the licence. The majority of electric petrol pumps were inspected and owners informed as to whether the pumps would comply with the Regulations to be brought into force in 1960.

The Council adopted the model code of construction for petrol filling stations, with a few very slight modifications, and all new installations in the year have been required to conform to this. For this purpose, the construction of new vaults has been checked, air pressure tests on tanks have been witnessed and flow tests on the pipe lines. In addition, one seepage test has been carried out on an existing tank.

